

The President's Daily Brief

11 January 1971

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Jordanian Army is maintaining heavy pressure on fedayeen centers north of Amman as Arab states seek a new cease-fire. (Page 1)

The senior headquarters of a Communist task force has moved southward in the Laotian panhandle and some of its elements appear to have crossed into South Vietnam. (Page 2)

In Cambodia, the Communists continue to harass government positions along Routes 4 and 7. (Page 3)

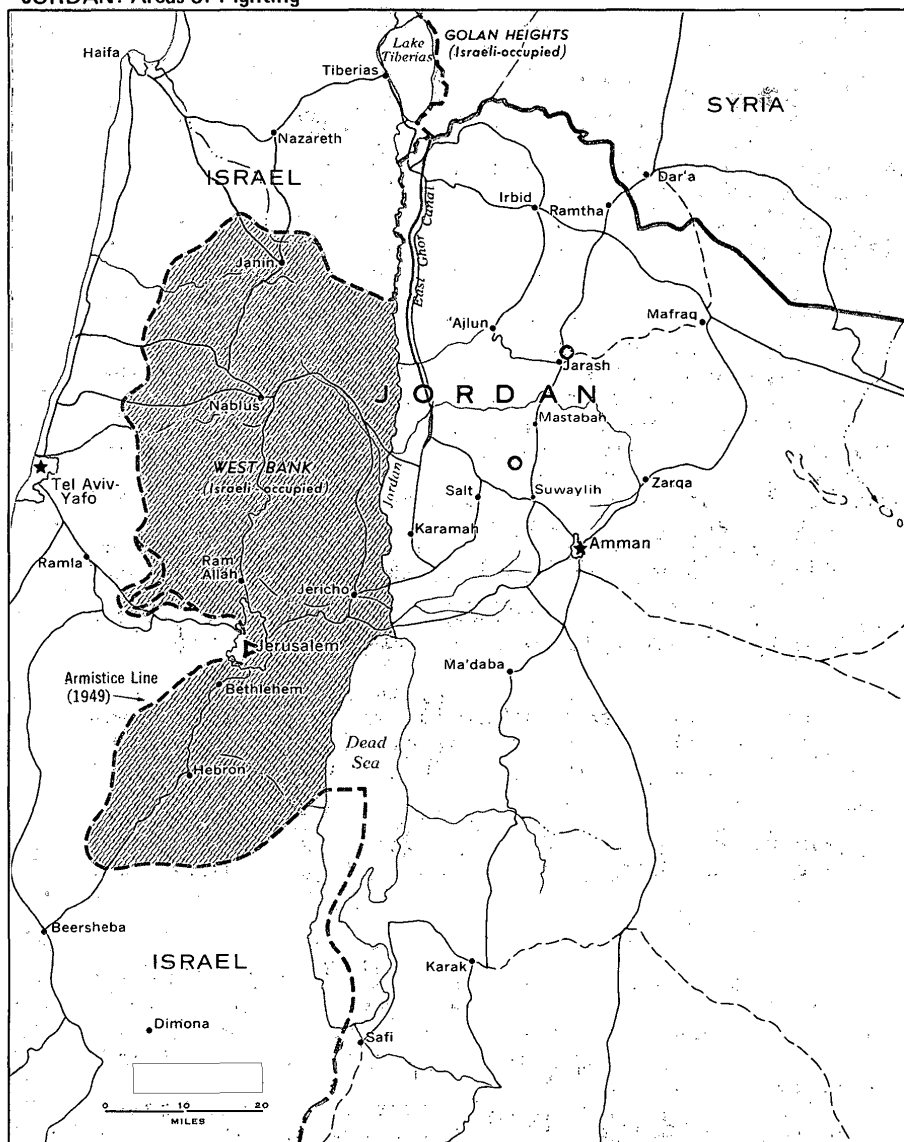
A Soviet nuclear-powered submarine operated in the Caribbean for about a week late last month. (Page 4)

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JORDAN: Areas of Fighting



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JORDAN

The army is maintaining heavy pressure on fedayeen centers in the hills northeast of Jarash and west of the Amman-Jarash road.

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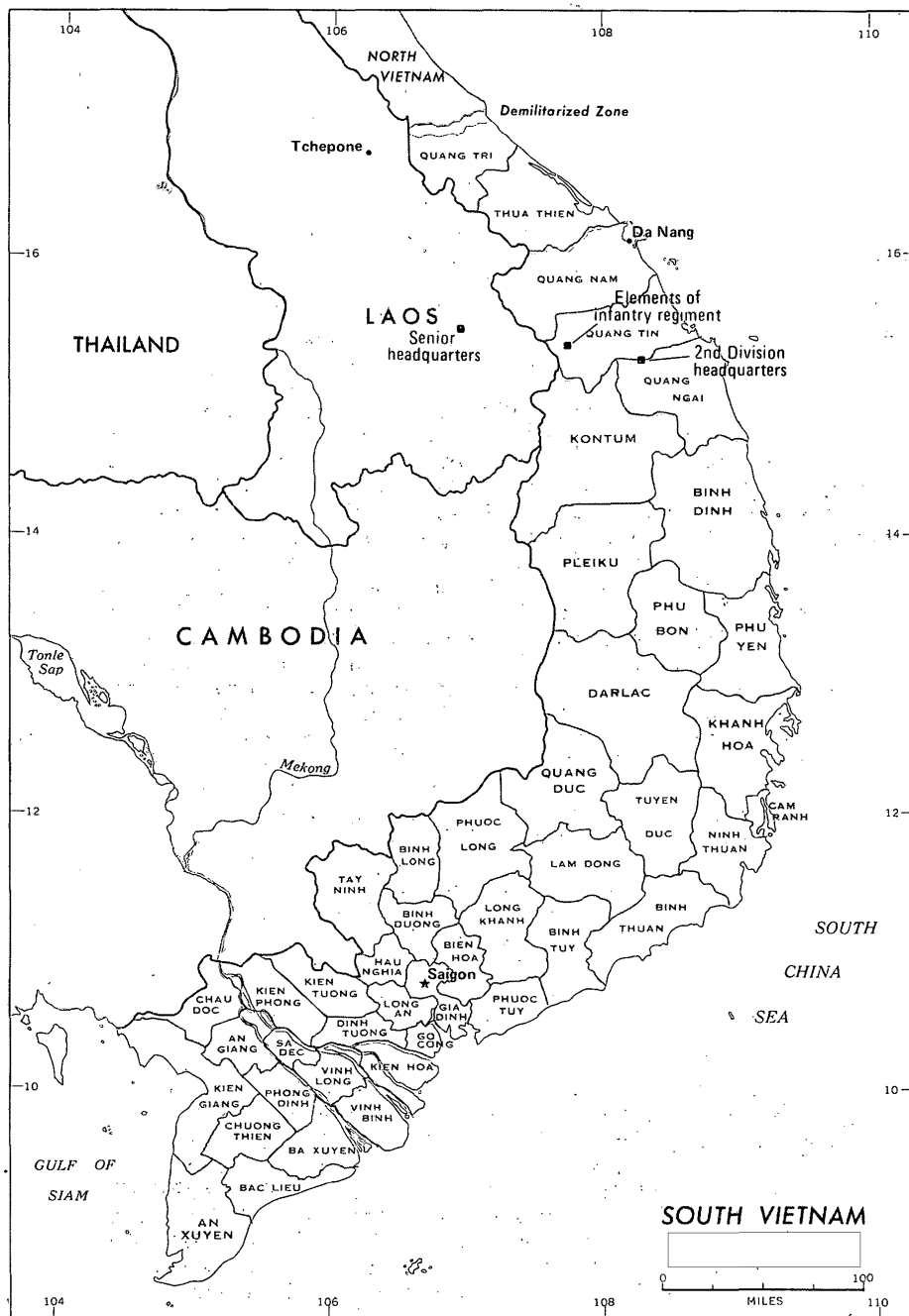
The village northeast of Amman where the fighting broke out on Friday appears to have been pacified.

Despite the continued fighting, the situation does not appear to be escalating to the scale of last September's civil war. The fedayeen seem too weak and disorganized to offer the resistance they showed then. The army probably is encouraged by the comandos' failure over the weekend to carry out more than sporadic firing in Amman, where the government is especially sensitive to guerrilla violence.

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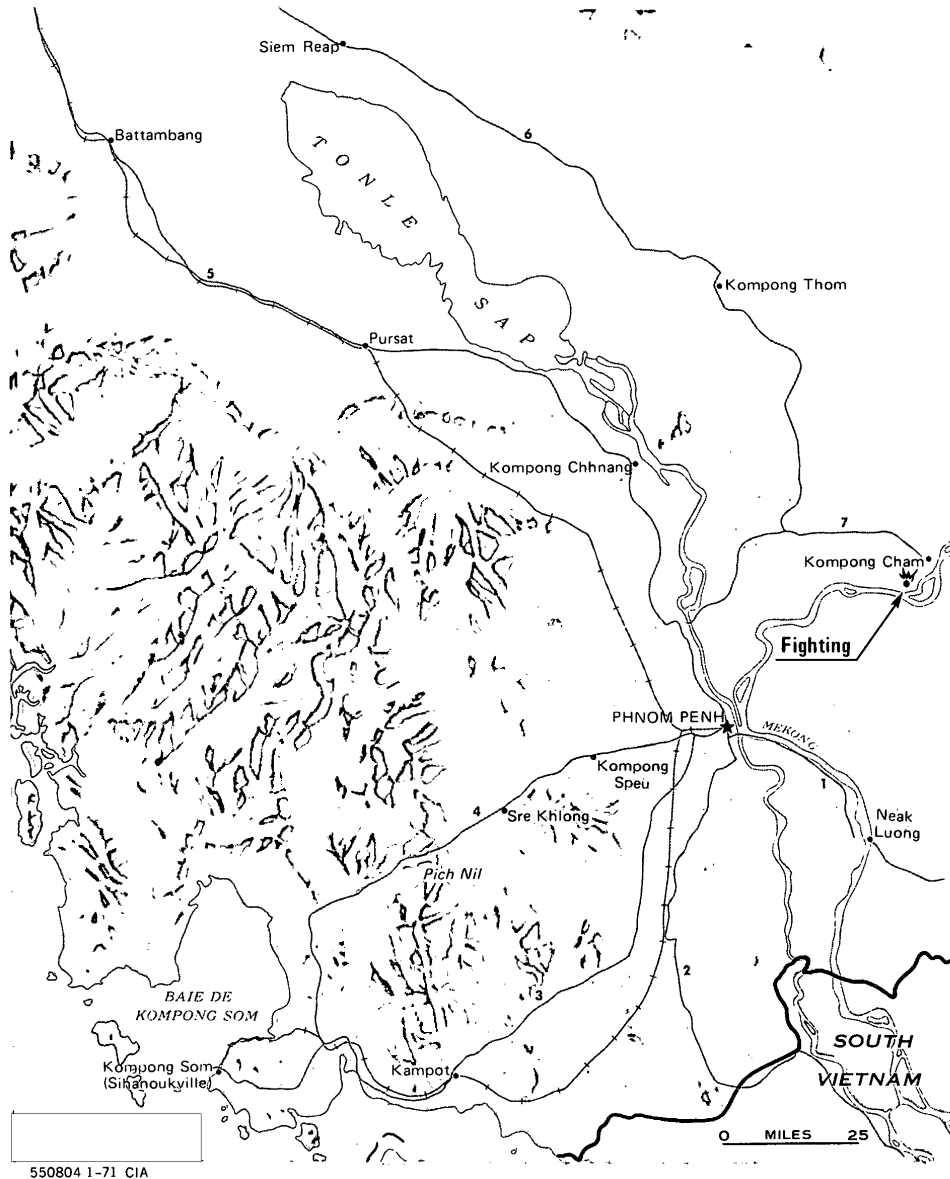
VIETNAM-LAOS

Recent intercepts show that the senior headquarters of a division-size Vietnamese Communist task force which had been in the Tchepone area of Laos last summer has moved farther south in the panhandle opposite South Vietnam's Quang Nam Province. Some of the combat elements under this headquarters, including at least part of an infantry regiment from the North Vietnamese 2nd Division and the division headquarters, appear already to have crossed into South Vietnam. The current locations of the remainder of the task force--including another regiment from the 2nd Division and an independent one--are not known.

The southward shift of some elements of the 2nd Division back toward the South Vietnamese border was previously noted in The President's Daily Brief on 6 January. We expect that, during the next month or so, all of the units in the task force with which the 2nd Division is presently associated will move back to their former positions in Quang Nam, Quang Tin, and Quang Ngai provinces. Their return would roughly double Communist main force strength in this region.

Since the returning units presumably have been fleshed out and re-equipped, the Communists may soon be in a stronger position to challenge the government's progress in pacification along the populated eastern coastal area south of Da Nang.

CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

The Communists continue to harass government positions along Route 4 as government forces await orders to renew the drive to clear the Pich Nil pass. The South Vietnamese have begun putting supplies into Kompong Speu, but the clearing operation may not get under way until later this month. To the north, Communist harassment has increased along Route 7--which is still open--and some heavy fighting has broken out south of Kompong Cham city.

On the diplomatic front, Prime Minister Lon Nol plans to head a delegation to Saigon on 20 and 21 January. Discussions will cover both military and economic aspects of the South Vietnamese involvement in Cambodia, including Saigon's request that the Cambodians help pay the cost of South Vietnamese participation.

Earlier lower level negotiations foundered on the payments issue, and there is no evidence that either Lon Nol or Thieu is ready to compromise now. The two men met briefly in Cambodia several months ago. If Lon Nol goes ahead with the trip, it will be the first time he has left Cambodia since Sihanouk's ouster last March.

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USSR-CUBA

A Soviet N-class nuclear-powered attack submarine operated in the Caribbean for about a week in late December,

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This submarine, which was not previously detected in the area, is not known to have been serviced either in a Cuban port or by the Soviet tender then in the Caribbean. It could well have conducted ASW training with the guided-missile frigate which operated in the Caribbean for three days after leaving Cienfuegos on 23 December. The frigate and its supporting oiler entered the Baltic on 10 January.

The tender and F-class diesel submarine which left the Caribbean on 3 January are in mid-Atlantic and still headed toward the Mediterranean. The Soviet rescue tug and the two nuclear submarine support barges remain in Cienfuegos.

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NOTES

Bolivia:

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Uruguay: The government has still received no demands from the kidnapers of British Ambassador Jackson, but has publicly reaffirmed its policy of no negotiation. Arrests made since the kidnaping apparently have yielded no clue as to his whereabouts. President Pacheco conferred Saturday with his ministers of interior, defense, and foreign affairs at his vacation home on the northeast coast and last night the government asked Congress to declare a limited state of siege that would suspend some personal rights.

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